

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for removing a contaminant from contaminated groundwater, which process comprises the following steps:

- a) a biologically active layer is applied on or in the soil
- b) the contaminated groundwater is contacted with the biologically active layer with the aid of a gas and/or by pumping.

2. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the biologically active layer is applied discontinuously.

3. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the biologically active layer is of such depth that the lower part of the layer is located in the groundwater.

4. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the contaminated groundwater is brought into or on top of the biologically active layer.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the contaminated groundwater is contacted with the biologically active layer more than once.

8. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the contaminant is readily soluble.

9. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ an electron acceptor is added during the process.

10. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ ammonia is nitrified to nitrate and subsequently nitrate is converted into  $N_2$  through addition of a carbon-containing component.

11. (currently amended) Process for removing a contaminant from contaminated groundwater, according to claim 1, wherein the contaminant is  $NH_3$  and ~~which~~ wherein the process comprises the following steps:

- a) a biologically active layer is applied in or on the soil;
- b) the contaminated groundwater is contacted under aerobic conditions with the biologically active layer whereby in the biologically active layer  $NH_3$  is converted into  $NO_3^-$ ;
- c) step b) is repeated during a period of time that is needed to reduce the concentration of  $NH_3$  to the desired level;
- d) subsequently, the groundwater whose concentration of  $NH_3$  has been reduced to the desired level is contacted with the biologically active layer under anaerobic conditions; and
- e) step d) is repeated during the period of time that is needed to reduce the concentration of  $NO_3^-$  to the desired level.

12. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a detergent is added.